

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A graphical user interface ("GUI") for navigating through multimedia content comprising:

a left menu region comprising a first plurality of selectable menu elements, one or more of said first plurality of selectable menu elements having a plurality of sub-elements associated therewith;

a selection element to identify one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements; and

a right menu region adjacent to said left menu region, said right menu region to display a first plurality of sub-elements associated with an identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements.

2. The GUI as in claim 1 wherein said selection element moves up and down to identify one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements responsive to user input.

3. The GUI as in claim 2 wherein said selection element moves to the right to identify a sub-element from said first plurality of sub-elements responsive to user input.

4. The GUI as in claim 3 wherein once said selection element identifies a sub-element from said first plurality of sub-elements, said first plurality of sub-elements shifts to the left and a second plurality of sub-elements associated with

an identified one of said first plurality of sub-elements appears to the right relative to said first plurality of sub-elements.

5. The GUI as in claim 3 wherein said selection element selects one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements or one of said first plurality of selectable sub-elements responsive to a user choosing a "select" key on a remote control or other input device.

6. The GUI as in claim 4 wherein said second plurality of sub-elements shifts on screen from the right.

7. The GUI as in claim 4 wherein said selection element shifts to the left with said first plurality of sub-elements.

8. The GUI as in claim 1 wherein said first plurality of selectable menu elements comprises a channel listing and wherein said first plurality of sub-elements comprises a listing of times at which programs are broadcast on an identified one of said channels.

9. The GUI as in claim 1 further comprising a graphical information region for displaying information related said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements.

10. The GUI as in claim 9 wherein said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements comprises a television program and wherein said graphical information comprises a program title and a program description.

11. The GUI as in claim 10 wherein said graphical information further comprises a program rating and a listing of actors in said program.

12. The GUI as in claim 9 further comprising:
a video region for displaying video of a current broadcast or recorded program.

13. The GUI as in claim 1 further comprising:
a command menu generated responsive to a user input, said command menu containing a list of actions associated with said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements.

14. The GUI as in claim 13 wherein said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements represents broadcast multimedia content and two of said actions are Play, to play said broadcast multimedia content in real time, and Play From Start, to play said broadcast multimedia content from the beginning.

15. The GUI as in claim 13 wherein said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements represents broadcast multimedia content and one of said actions is Change Expiration to change a time and date on which said broadcast multimedia content will be erased.

16. The GUI as in claim 13 wherein said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements represents broadcast multimedia content and one of said actions is Record to record said broadcast multimedia content.

17. A graphical user interface ("GUI") for selecting multimedia content comprising:

a first menu region comprising a first plurality of selectable menu elements, one or more of said first plurality of selectable menu elements having a plurality of sub-elements associated therewith;

a selection element to identify one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements;

a second menu region adjacent to said first menu region, said second menu region to display a first plurality of sub-elements associated with an identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements; and

an information region adjacent to either said first or second menu regions, said information region containing information related to said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements.

18. The GUI as in claim 17 further comprising:

a video region for displaying video of a current broadcast or recorded program.

19. The GUI as in claim 16 wherein said selection element moves up and down to identify one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements responsive to user input.

20. The GUI as in claim 18 wherein said selection element moves to the right to identify a sub-element from said first plurality of sub-elements responsive to user input.

21. The GUI as in claim 19 wherein once said selection element identifies a sub-element from said first plurality of sub-elements, said first plurality of sub-elements shifts to an area previously occupied by said first plurality of selectable menu elements and a second plurality of sub-elements associated with an identified one of said first plurality of sub-elements shifts to an area previously occupied by said first plurality of sub-elements.

22. The GUI as in claim 19 wherein said selection element selects one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements or one of said first plurality of selectable sub-elements responsive to a user choosing a "select" key on a remote control or other input device.

23. The GUI as in claim 20 wherein said second plurality of sub-elements shifts on screen from the right.

24. The GUI as in claim 17 wherein said first plurality of selectable menu elements comprises a channel listing and wherein said first plurality of sub-elements comprises a listing of times at which programs are broadcast on an identified one of said channels.

25. The GUI as in claim 17 wherein said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements comprises a television program and wherein said information comprises a program title and a program description.

26. The GUI as in claim 25 wherein said information further comprises a program rating and a listing of actors in said program.

27. The GUI as in claim 17 further comprising:

a command menu generated responsive to a user input, said command menu containing a list of actions associated with said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements.

28. The GUI as in claim 27 wherein said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements represents broadcast multimedia content and two of said actions are Play, to play said broadcast multimedia content in real time, and Play From Start, to play said broadcast multimedia content from the beginning.

29. The GUI as in claim 27 wherein said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements represents broadcast multimedia content and one of said actions is Change Expiration to change a time and date on which said broadcast multimedia content will be erased.

30. The GUI as in claim 27 wherein said identified one of said first plurality of selectable menu elements represents broadcast multimedia content and one of said actions is Record to record said broadcast multimedia content.

31. A multimedia playback widget comprising:

a recorded content indicator graphically indicating an amount of broadcast multimedia content stored on a mass storage device; and

a playback shuttle indicator graphically indicating a point within said broadcast multimedia content at which playback is occurring.

32. The multimedia playback widget as in claim 31 further comprising:
a start time indicator indicating a start time of said multimedia content
and an end time indicator indicating an end time of said multimedia content.

33. The multimedia playback widget as in claim 32 further comprising:
a playback progress indicator displaying time associated with said point
within said broadcast multimedia content at which playback is occurring.

34. The multimedia playback widget as in claim 32 further comprising:
a current transport state indicator indicating a current transport state of
said multimedia content.

35. The multimedia playback widget as in claim 31 wherein said recorded
content indicator and said playback shuttle indicator are visually offset from one
another by an amount equal to a delay in time between when said broadcast
multimedia content is received and played back, respectively.